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Ludlow Rural District



ANNUAL REPORT of the Medical Officer of Health for 1938.

Ludlow Rural District Council

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the pleasure of presenting my Thirty-second Report on the Vital Statistics and Sanitary Administration of your district for the year ending December 31st, 1938.

Statistics and Social Conditions.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	...	106,000
Registrar-General's estimate of Population, 1938					13,510
Number of Inhabited Houses (according to Rate Book)	...	...	...	...	3,866
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	£64,244
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	...				£277/6/5

SOCIAL CONDITIONS. The District comprises forty-five Parishes. The population is, for the greater part, thinly scattered with one person to six-and-a-half acres. The chief industries of the area are Agriculture, Quarrying and Transport; they maintained the improvement noted in previous years and the work at the quarries was well maintained.

Extracts from the Vital Statistics for the year.

Live Births—

	M	F	Total	Birth-rate per 1000 of the estimated population		
Legitimate	67	85	152			
Illegitimate	7	3	10	...		
	74	88	162	...		
				11·9		

Still Births, 7.	Rate per 1000 total births	...	...	43
Deaths, 145.	Rate per 1000 estimated population	...	...	10·73
Deaths from Puerperal causes	...	...	...	1
Deaths of Infants under one year of age:—				
All Infants per 1000 live births	...	...	...	43
Legitimate Infants per 1000 legitimate live births	...	...	...	39
Illegitimate Infants per 1000 illegitimate live births	...	...	...	100
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	...	...	...	18
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	0
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under two years of age)	...	...	...	0

The Registrar-General's estimate of the mid-year population is 13,510, which is 170 less than last year.

THE BIRTH-RATE (11·9) is below the rate of recent years. The rate for England and Wales for the year was 15·1. Ten births were illegitimate, equal to ·6 per cent. of the total.

THE DEATH-RATE (10·73) is a great improvement on recent years and when modified by the Registrar's comparability factor (·78) which makes it comparable with the country as a whole or with other areas, the death-rate of which has been treated similarly with its own figure, the corrected death-rate for Ludlow Rural District is 8·3 compared with 11·6 for England and Wales for 1938.

The chief causes of death were : Cancer 18; Tubercle of the Respiratory System 1; other Tuberculosis 1; Diabetes 2; Cerebral Hæmorrhage 19; Heart Disease 35; other Circulatory Diseases 16; Bronchitis 9; Pneumonia 1; Peptic Ulcer 1; Old Age 8; Suicides 3; other violence 5; other defined Diseases 11; cause ill-defined or unknown 2; Liver Disease 2; Nephritis 2; Puerperal Disease 1; Congenital Debility and Premature Birth 5.

The death-rate from Respiratory Tuberculosis, based on one death, was ·07 per 1000 of the population, is a very favourable one; and for Cancer 1·3, is half the rate of the previous year.

INFANTILE MORTALITY (43) is based on 7 deaths of Infants under 12 months due to the following causes : Congenital Debility and Premature Birth 5; Convulsions 1 and Pneumonia 1. The Infantile Mortality Rate for England and Wales for the year was 53.

General Provision of Health Services for the Area.

1. The only whole-time Public Health Officer of the Authority is Mr. George Graham, who holds the certificate of the Royal Sanitary Institute. He is also Building Surveyor, Meat Inspector and in charge of the Public Water Supplies. A contribution is made to his salary and that of the Medical Officer of Health under the Public Health Acts.

There were no changes in the Health Services available for the district during the year.

(a) LABORATORY FACILITIES. The County Council have made arrangements with Birmingham University for the examination of various pathological specimens and water, and full advantage is taken of it by Medical Practitioners in the district.

(b) AMBULANCE FACILITIES. Ambulance facilities are provided by the Infectious Disease Hospital, and there are two local ones—one Red Cross at Ludlow and one at Burford Cottage Hospital available for the removal of cases of illness and accidents.

(c) NURSING IN THE HOME. There are Nurse Midwives in most of the parishes who carry out a certain amount of nursing in the homes.

(d) TREATMENT CENTRES AND CLINICS are situated in the Borough where there is a Child Welfare Centre and a Tuberculosis Clinic. The Tuberculosis Officer also visits Craven Arms.

HOSPITALS. There are Cottage Hospitals at Ludlow and Burford which are used for accidents and illness.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

WATER. The Sanitary Inspector states that the three public supplies at Craven Arms, Cleobury Mortimer and Ludlow, have been satisfactorily maintained during the year.

At Craven Arms a 30" bore hole was put down by the Engineers, Messrs. Bradly & Partington, but the yield was not satisfactory. The Clee Hill and Coreley supplies were completed and several houses have had the water laid on and the remainder are supplied by stand-pipes. No further progress has been made with the Crumps Brook supply.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE. No further progress has been made with Cleobury Mortimer Sewage Scheme, which is very necessary if the town is to grow and develop. A Canning Factory has been recently introduced into the town and new houses have to make their own arrangements for disposal of sewerage. The scheme could be carried out for a reasonable sum and would be a great benefit.

A public collection of house refuse at Cleobury Mortimer is also desirable under the control of the Sanitary Inspector.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA. Appended to this Report is a statement furnished by Mr. Graham of the work carried out during the year, one legal and 278 informal notices were served and 256 complied with. A large amount of valuable sanitary work was carried out.

There are two Hop-yards in the area and the Council propose to adopt the new Bye-laws which will give the grower information in regard to the standard required by the Ministry of Health for hop pickers' accommodation now considered necessary.

SCHOOLS. All the Schools visited during the year were in good sanitary condition and had an efficient water supply. A number were closed on account of the prevalence of Infectious Diseases—Whooping Cough, Measles and Chicken Pox.

A commencement was made with the inoculation of the children against diphtheria and the Clee Hill and Cleobury Mortimer Schools were completed. The majority of parents filled in the form asking for this to be done.

Housing.

1.—INSPECTION OF DWELLING HOUSES DURING THE YEAR :—

(1).	(a)	Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects under Public Health and Housing Acts	...	...	...	106
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose				136
(2).	(a)	Number of Dwelling Houses which were inspected and recorded under Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1935			...	42
	(b)	Number of Inspections made for the purpose				42

(3). Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation ...	6
(4). Number of Dwelling Houses found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	70

2.—REMEDY OF DEFECTS DURING THE YEAR WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICES :—

Number of Defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	97
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3.—ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS DURING THE YEAR :—

A. Proceedings under Sects. 17, 18 and 23, Housing Act, 1930—

Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs ...	Nil
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B. Proceedings under the Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	2
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(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices—(a) by Owners	2
(b) by Local Authority ...	0

C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21, Housing Act, 1930	Nil
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D. Proceedings under Section 20, Housing Act, 1930	Nil
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<i>Sections E and F</i>	Nil
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Four overcrowded houses were reconditioned during the year and the overcrowding abated.

Eighteen houses were reconditioned during the year under the Rural Workers' Act.

4.—HOUSING ACT, 1936. OVERCROWDING—

A. (1) Number of Dwellings overcrowded ...	1
(2) Number of families dwelling therein ...	1
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	6

B. Number of new cases of Overcrowding reported during the year	4
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C. (1) Number of cases of Overcrowding relieved during the year	4
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(2) Number of persons concerned	26
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Eighteen houses were reconditioned during the year under the Rural Workers' Act.

The Council have let the contract for erecting twelve houses at Clee Hill and four at Cleobury Mortimer, and acquired land for the purpose in several parishes.

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

(a) MILK SUPPLY. There are 223 Cowkeepers and Milk sellers on the register. They have been visited and inspected regularly and 23 notices were served for defects in the cow sheds or want of cleanliness, and nineteen have been complied with.

Twenty-seven milk producers have been granted licenses for the production of "Accredited Milk " and two for " Tuberculin-tested Milk " by the County Council. Two producers are licensed for bottling their milk. Several new cowsheds were erected in the area during the year.

The area is well supplied with milk in all parishes of good quality and a large amount is exported to the neighbouring towns in Staffordshire.

(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS. There are thirteen registered and licensed Slaughter-houses in the area and they are regularly visited by Mr. Graham and the meat inspected. The two Knacker Yards are both in satisfactory condition and no complaints were received.

Prevalence of, and control over, Infectious Diseases.

Disease.	Total Cases Notified.	Cases admitted to Hospital.	Total Deaths.
Scarlet Fever ...	7	1	0
Diphtheria ...	5	5	0
Erysipelas ..	4	0	0
Pneumonia ...	9	0	1
Puerperal Pyrexia ...	4	0	0
	29	6	1

There were seven cases of Scarlet Fever in five parishes in the first six months of the year. They were all mild in type; only one of these was sent to hospital.

The five Diphtheria cases were in two houses at Cleobury Mortimer in January and June; they were all sent to Monkmoor

Hospital and were returned home in about three weeks. Practically all the children attending Cleobury Mortimer School have recently been immunised against Diphtheria. The drainage of the town is, of course, very bad and should be relaid at once and Sewage Works installed.

Tuberculosis.

No action was called for under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk trade, nor under Section 172 of the Public Health Act of 1936 relating to the compulsory removal to hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1938.

Age Periods	New Cases				Deaths			
	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0							1	
1								
5			2					
15	1	3	1					
25	1							
35					1			
45	1							
55	1							
65+								
	4	3	3	0	1	0	1	0

Seven Respiratory cases were under treatment at Shirlett Sanatorium and one Joint case at the Orthopædic Hospital at Oswestry, and a Glandular case at the County Council Hospital at Berrington Cross Houses.

There were on the Tuberculosis Register at the close of the year 1938, 141 Pulmonary cases (73 male and 68 female) and 105 Non-Pulmonary cases (61 male and 44 female).

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ALFRED E. WHITE.

June 17th, 1939.

**THE FOLLOWING IS AN ACCOUNT FURNISHED BY THE
SANITARY INSPECTOR, OF SANITARY WORK FOR
THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1938, IN THE
LUDLOW RURAL SANITARY DISTRICT:—**

(a) Number of Houses which have been inspected during the above period, either in connection with outbreaks of infectious disease, or in consequence of complaints, or in the course of a systematic Sanitary Survey	106
Number of legal notices sent	1
Number of informal notices sent	278
Number of such notices complied with	256
Number of letters written	560

**Particulars of Sanitary matters referred to in
the above Notices:—**

(a) Houses to be disinfected after Infectious Disease	17
(b) Deficient or objectionable water supply	11
(c) New drains to be constructed or old drains to be amended	40
(d) New closets to be provided or old ones to be amended in construction	24
(e) Houses damp or dirty, or admitting rain, or weather, or otherwise in a bad sanitary condition	65
(f) Offensive accumulation of all kinds	13
(g) Animals so kept as to be a nuisance	3
(h) Houses overcrowded	1
Houses disinfected after infectious disease (other than phthisis)	13
Houses disinfected in cases of phthisis	4
Privies converted to water closets	6
Privies converted to earth closets	14
Plans for new houses passed	38
Certificates issued for water supply to new houses	18
Houses connected to public water supply	8
Repairs to public pumps and wells	4
Privates wells re-constructed or improved	7
Lengths of new sewers laid	217
Samples of water taken	16

(Signed) **G. W. GRAHAM,**

Sanitary Inspector.